

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-50. cancelled.

51. (currently amended) A method for conducting electronic commerce through a computer network, the method comprising:

receiving, in a merchant computer system of the computer network from a buyer computer system, a purchase request for a digital product;

receiving payment data in the merchant computer system wherein the payment data specifies remuneration for the digital product; 7

sending a request for reservation of the digital product ~~directly~~ to a content manager computer system ~~such that the request for reservation does not pass through the buyer computer system, the content manager computer system being a computer system which can be different from the merchant computer system and which is coupled to the merchant computer system through the computer network;~~

in response to receiving the request for reservation, forming by the content manager computer system transaction data which include (i) transaction identification data, (ii) product identification data which identifies the digital product, and (iii) binding data which binds the transaction to the client computer system;

sending the formed transaction data from the content manager computer system to the merchant computer system;

receiving, in the content manager computer system, a delivery request signal from the merchant computer system wherein the delivery request signal requests delivery of the digital product through the computer network to a client computer system which can be different from the buyer computer system; and

sending the transaction identification data to the client computer system wherein the transaction identification data identifies the digital product and represents remuneration in accordance with the payment data;

~~receiving, in a delivery computer system of the computer network, the transaction identification data from the client computer system;~~

~~determining within the delivery computer system, in accordance with the transaction identification data, the digital product; and~~
~~sending, from the delivery computer system, the digital product to the client computer system.~~

52. (currently amended) The method of Claim 51 further comprising:
receiving, in a delivery computer system of the computer network, the transaction identification data from the client computer system;
determining within the delivery computer system, in accordance with the transaction identification data, the digital product; and
sending, from the delivery computer system, the digital product to the client computer system; and
sending, from the delivery computer system to the content manager computer system, a signal indicating that sending the digital product to the client computer system is completed.

53. (currently amended) The method of Claim [[51]] 52 wherein sending the digital product from the delivery computer system to the client computer system comprises:
creating a new encrypting key which is intended to be used only once;
encrypting the digital product with the new encryption key to form an encrypted digital product;
sending the encrypted digital product to the client computer system;
decrypting the encrypted digital product within the client computer system to recover the digital product; and
discarding the new encryption key.

54. (previously presented) The method of Claim 51 wherein requesting reservation by the merchant computer system comprises:
encrypting data representing a requested reservation;
sending the data as encrypted to the content manager computer system;

and

decrypting the data within the content manager computer system.

55. canceled.

56. (previously presented) The method of Claim 51 wherein the delivery request signal includes the transaction identification data.

57. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[51]]~~ 52 wherein the transaction identification data, as received by the delivery computer system is certified as originating from the client computer system.

58. (previously presented) A method for conducting electronic commerce through a computer network, the method comprising:

receiving, in a merchant computer system of the computer network, a purchase request for a digital product;

receiving payment data in the merchant computer system wherein the payment data specifies remuneration for the digital product;

sending a request for reservation of the digital product to a content manager computer system which is different from the merchant computer system and which is coupled to the merchant computer system through the computer network;

receiving, in the content manager computer system, a delivery request signal from the merchant computer system wherein the delivery request signal requests delivery of the digital product to a client computer system through the computer network;

sending transaction identification data from the content manager computer system to the client computer system, wherein the transaction identification data identifies the digital product and represents remuneration in accordance with the payment data;

receiving, in a delivery computer system of the computer network, the transaction identification data from the client computer system;

determining within the delivery computer system, in accordance with

the transaction identification data, the digital product; and

sending, from the delivery computer system, the digital product to the client computer system.

59. (previously presented) The method of Claim 58 further comprising:
sending, from the delivery computer system to the content manager computer system, a signal indicating that sending the digital product to the client computer system is completed.

60. (previously presented) The method of Claim 58 wherein sending the digital product from the delivery computer system to the client computer system comprises:
creating a new encrypting key which is intended to be used only once;
encrypting the digital product with the new encryption key to form an encrypted digital product;
sending the encrypted digital product to the client computer system;
decrypting the encrypted digital product within the client computer system to recover the digital product; and
discarding the new encryption key.

61. (previously presented) The method of Claim 58 wherein requesting reservation by the merchant computer system comprises:
encrypting data representing a requested reservation;
sending the data as encrypted to the content manager computer system;
and
decrypting the data within the content manager computer system.

62. (previously presented) The method of Claim 58 wherein, in response to requesting reservation by the merchant computer system, the content manager computer system effects such a reservation of the digital product by:
forming transaction data which include (i) the transaction identification data, (ii) product identification data which identifies the digital product, and (iii) binding data

which binds the transaction to the client computer system; and
sending the transaction data to the merchant computer system.

63. (previously presented) The method of Claim 58 wherein the delivery request signal includes the transaction identification data.

64. (previously presented) The method of Claim 58 wherein the transaction identification data, as received by the delivery computer system is certified as originating from the client computer system.

65-70 cancelled

71. (new) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

receiving, in a merchant computer system of a computer network from a buyer computer system, a purchase request for a digital product;

receiving payment data in the merchant computer system wherein the payment data specifies remuneration for the digital product;

sending a request for reservation of the digital product to a content manager computer system which is coupled to the merchant computer system through the computer network;

in response to receiving the request for reservation, forming by the content manager computer system transaction data which include (i) transaction identification data, (ii) product identification data which identifies the digital product, and (iii) binding data which binds the transaction to the client computer system;

sending the formed transaction data from the content manager computer system to the merchant computer system;

receiving, in the content manager computer system, a delivery request signal from the merchant computer system wherein the delivery request signal requests delivery of the digital product through the computer network to a client computer system which can be different from the buyer computer system; and

sending the transaction identification data to the client computer system wherein the transaction identification data identifies the digital product and represents remuneration in accordance with the payment data.

72. (new) The computer readable medium of claim 71, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

receiving, in a delivery computer system of the computer network, the transaction identification data from the client computer system;

determining within the delivery computer system, in accordance with the transaction identification data, the digital product; and

sending, from the delivery computer system, the digital product to the client computer system; and

sending, from the delivery computer system to the content manager computer system, a signal indicating that sending the digital product to the client computer system is completed.

73. (new) The computer readable medium of Claim 72 wherein sending the digital product from the delivery computer system to the client computer system comprises:

creating a new encrypting key which is intended to be used only once; encrypting the digital product with the new encryption key to form an encrypted digital product;

sending the encrypted digital product to the client computer system; decrypting the encrypted digital product within the client computer system to recover the digital product; and

discarding the new encryption key.

74. (new) The computer readable medium of Claim 72 wherein the transaction identification data, as received by the delivery computer system is certified as originating from the client computer system.

75. (new) The computer readable medium of Claim 71 wherein requesting reservation by the merchant computer system comprises:

- encrypting data representing a requested reservation;
- sending the data as encrypted to the content manager computer system;

and

- decrypting the data within the content manager computer system.

76. (new) The computer readable medium of Claim 71 wherein the delivery request signal includes the transaction identification data.